

she knew she was going to take a pretty significant pay cut. Our office had the good luck and good sense to hire Anne, but we started her off at the bottom of the staff ladder. She started writing constituent letters and answering e-mails. She said whenever she questioned this career move from a prestigious law firm to answering letters in the office of a Senator, she would look at another lawyer hired at the same time and also writing letters and say: And he went to Harvard.

The people of Illinois were fortunate to have talented people such as Anne working for them. She quickly discovered the glamor of staff life on Capitol Hill, however. Anne's first apartment in Washington, the only one she could afford on the meager salary which I paid her, unfortunately was infested with vermin, the roof leaked, and one night it fell in. But she didn't want her mom to worry so she told her she was living in a wonderful place on Capitol Hill.

After 1 year, we promoted Anne to serve as my office counsel. She quickly learned the ins and outs of the Senate ethics rules, and I brought her on to counsel me on close calls on ethics decisions. Her counsel was always valuable and her answer was always "no." I knew that and expected it and I am glad she steered me on the right path so many times.

In 2008 I asked her to work for me on the Senate floor and once again she excelled. In January of 2009 she became my floor director here in the Senate. As my right hand on the floor, Anne Hall helped help steer the majority whip operation and the entire Senate through historic changes: health care reform, Wall Street reform, and a long list of other historic endeavors.

Whatever the task, whatever the challenge, Anne Wall has always brought good humor, intelligence, and integrity to the task. When Anne was not winning elections or reading Roll Call in high school, she played tennis. It was one of the things she loved to do. She was ranked as one of the top high school players in the State, but not being able to play tennis regularly is another one of the sacrifices Anne made to work in the Senate. The job takes too much time. I hate to tell Anne, but she won't be able to pick up her tennis racquet again in the new job she is taking in the White House.

These are challenging times for America's families and businesses and we need bright, dedicated people giving it their all to get us through to a brighter day. Fortunately, America is up to that challenge, and so is Anne Wall. I am wishing her the best of luck.

When Anne Wall left Chicago, her law firm promised they would take her back in a heartbeat if she didn't like it in Washington. They kept her office vacant for months, hoping she would return. No such luck. We feel the same way in the Durbin office about losing Anne. She is always welcome to rejoin our staff. There will always be a place

for her, but we are not holding her job for her. My new floor director is a person who has been Anne's right-hand person for the last 2½ years, Reema Dodin. Reema is equally dedicated to this Nation and the Senate, and I know she will do an outstanding job.

In closing, I want to thank Anne personally for all the fine and tireless work she has given the Senate. She helped us make history. We hope she will enjoy reading about this floor tribute in Roll Call.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL GAROFANO, SR. AND MICHAEL GAROFANO, JR.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to two dedicated public servants in Vermont who passed away tragically in the floods of Hurricane Irene.

Both Michael Garofano Sr. and Michael Garofano Jr. were employees at the Rutland City Water Facility in Rutland, VT, where they served at the interest of their communities until the very end. During the worst hours of Hurricane Irene in Vermont, Michael Sr. and Michael Jr. sought to protect the people of Rutland by inspecting the town's water system infrastructure. In this brave moment, both men unfortunately lost their lives as the waters of Mendon Brook rose to threatening levels. We will always remember them for their everlasting courage, evident by their extreme dedication to protecting their family and beloved community during a crisis.

Michael Sr. joined the Rutland City Water Facility as its manager in 1981. He served zealously, ensuring that the water of Rutland City was safe at all times for those living in the region. He was also a member of the American Water Works Association where he was committed to benefitting not only Vermont, but also the country, in its pursuit of clean water. Michael was highly respected and honored by those who worked under his supervision. He was known as one of the best employees the industry had to offer.

Michael Sr.'s son, Michael Garofano Jr., also had the interest of water quality at heart. As a water operator at the Rutland City Water Facility, he too braved the elements of Hurricane Irene to serve his family and community. As an independently contracted landscaper, Michael's loyalty to his community was widely recognized. At a mere 24 years of age, both his accomplishments and bravery are of honorable praise.

Michael Garofano Sr. and Jr. are survived by wife and mother, Celestine "Sally"—Sitek—Garofano and son and brother, Thomas Garofano of Rutland, Vermont. My wife Marcelle and I wish to express our deepest condolences to Sally, Thomas, and Michael Sr. and Jr.'s extended family. In the days following the hurricane, many acts of bravery have been displayed throughout our state. All of Vermont can be

proud of Michael Sr. and Michael Jr.'s incredible courage and the legacy they both have left behind.

I ask unanimous consent that the obituary for Michael Garofano Sr. and Michael Garofano Jr. from the Rutland Herald be printed in the RECORD so all may recognize two men whose acts of bravery will not soon be forgotten.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

MICHAEL J. GAROFANO

Published in Rutland Herald from September 2 to September 3, 2011

Michael J. Garofano, 55, of Rutland died Sunday afternoon, Aug. 28, 2011, with his son Michael, as a tragic result of Hurricane Irene in Rutland.

He was born in Rutland, Vt., on March 27, 1956, the son of Patrick and Jacqueline (Roussil) Garofano.

Michael was a graduate of Rutland High School, Class of 1974. He graduated from Vermont Technical College in 1976, with an Associate Degree in Water Quality.

He was employed as the Water Treatment and Resource Manager in the Rutland City Department of Public Works since 1981.

He enjoyed his family, especially his three boys. He enjoyed puttering around the house and fixing things. Mike had a dry sense of humor and gave everyone a nickname.

Surviving are his wife, Celestine "Sally" (Sitek) Garofano of Rutland; a son, Thomas A. Garofano of Rutland, his parents of Rutland; two brothers, Thomas and his wife Maureen of Georgia, Vt., and Patrick and his wife Cindy of Daphne, Ala.; three sisters, Mary Goodchild and her husband Harvey of Rutland, Lynn Helrich of Anchorage, Alaska, and Stephanie Urso and her husband Frank of Proctor, Vt.; mother-in-law Valeria Sitek of Rutland, Vt.; sister-in-law Chris Giddings and her husband Fred Hellmuth of Pittsford; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was predeceased by a son, Robert M. Garofano, on April 8, 2010.

Funeral services for Michael J. Garofano and his son Michael G. will be held Friday, September 9, 2011, at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Church in Rutland.

Visiting hours for Michael J. Garofano and his son Michael G. will be held Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Clifford Funeral Home in Rutland.

The family is intending to create a memorial fund to honor Michael and his son via the purchase of a plaque or similar item to be placed at the City Reservoir.

In lieu of flowers, you may send donations payable to the Garofano Memorial Fund, c/o Rutland City Treasurer's Office, PO Box 969, Rutland, VT 05702-0969.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, on August 26, 2011, we recognized the 40th anniversary of Women's Equality Day. It is on this day that we celebrate the many contributions of women in advancing our society by fighting for equality and justice. This day also marked the 91st anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guaranteed women the right to vote in 1920. Wyoming was the first in the world to allow women to vote and own property. Wyoming adopted it in 1820. That was 50 years before the nation adopted women's suffrage.

Wyoming has a long history of advancing women's rights and actually refused to become a state when the option was women losing their rights. Wyoming became the first State to elect a female Governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross, just 5 years after the 19th amendment was ratified by the U.S. Congress. We also had the first female Justice of the Peace, Esther Hobart Morris and her commemoration is one of only a few female statues displayed in the U.S. Capitol today.

While we are certainly proud of our past, I am honored to currently serve in Wyoming's congressional delegation alongside U.S. Congresswoman CYNTHIA LUMMIS who has been a remarkable leader for Wyoming as she continues the proud tradition of leadership of women in our state. Speaking of firsts, Congresswoman LUMMIS became the youngest woman ever elected to the Wyoming State Legislature. She was also the first woman to serve on the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo Board. CYNTHIA has taken on a variety of roles ranging from a lawyer and rancher to a legislator and Wyoming State treasurer. Now in her role in the U.S. House of Representatives, her work continually impresses me as she does an outstanding job serving her constituents and fighting for their interests in Congress.

Without a doubt, the ratification of the 19th amendment to our country's Constitution was a landmark in our need to recognize the voices of women and recognize their contributions to our country. While there is no doubt we are a better country for offering full franchise to women, it needs to be recognized that on Equality Day our Nation recognizes a turning point for progress and civil rights, a watershed moment in our ongoing pursuit of liberty and justice for all.

Women serve as a pillar of strength in our country. I am proud to recognize the 141st year of Wyoming women voting and this 91st anniversary of women gaining the right to vote and look forward to welcoming their achievements and contributions in the years to come and assuring that equality is not just a word.

BLAIR, NEBRASKA FLOOD RESPONSE EFFORTS

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, as you are aware, my home State of Nebraska has battled devastating flood waters throughout much of this summer. As often occurs during disasters, it resulted in neighbors and communities coming together to help one another. On display in impressive fashion was the sense of determination and self-reliance that is woven into the character of our citizens and the fabric of our State. I have been privileged to witness the resiliency of Nebraskans many times throughout my public service as a county commissioner, mayor, Governor, secretary of agriculture and now, as a U.S. Senator. I am deeply

moved by it. The flooding has been tragic, but the response has been inspiring. One shining example of this resiliency and compassion occurred in Blair, NE. In fact, the organized and dedicated response in Blair so impressed officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency that on September 2, 2011, they issued a news release about the incredible response efforts in Blair. It is entitled, "How the People of Blair Took Care of Their Own," and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOW THE PEOPLE OF BLAIR TOOK CARE OF THEIR OWN

(By Paul Lomartire)

BLAIR, NE.—As the gritty, brown Missouri River just kept rising in early June, so did the will of the people in this small city northwest of Omaha. Residents of Blair's Northview Apartments and the Longview Trailer Court were forced out of their homes by flooding. Blair homes along the river were also flooded and the Cottonwood Marina and Restaurant on the Missouri River was destroyed and washed away.

"It happened so fast, the reality of this flood coming," recalls Harriet Waite, director of Blair's Chamber of Commerce. "It was like, OK, we are going to do this."

What they did in this city of almost 8,000 residents was to form a committee of eight citizens to help house and feed their neighbors who were flooded out of their homes. With Washington County and the City of Blair governments creating green lights, the committee of eight drove the rescue bus.

Blair is on the banks of the Missouri River across from Iowa, their eastern neighbor.

When the flooding began in early June, Washington County and the City of Blair struck a deal to rent the 76-room Holling Hall on the former Dana College campus. The cost was \$5,000 monthly to the bank that owned the former Lutheran college founded in 1884, which was forced to close in 2010.

"We cared about our business community staying open," explained Phil Green, Blair's assistant city administrator. "When we knew the water was coming, there was a lot going on with Cargill building levees to protect their plant and levees for our water treatment plant to keep it from flooding. We had to take care of employees in Blair whether they lived here or in Iowa. Our priorities for housing at Dana were Washington County residents and Washington County workers."

The committee of eight and other volunteers took care of everything from organizing meals at Holling Hall to maintenance, cleaning and security. Those families at Holling Hall were asked to pay \$150 per family unit to offset the cost of utilities.

Move-in at the vacant Dana College facility was on the weekend of June 11-12. There were 23 adults and 11 children comprising 13 families. Blair's business community donated all the supplies for Holling Hall, including paper products, plastic ware, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and more. Donated meals came from mom-and-pop restaurants, national chains and local churches.

The population of flood survivors at Holling Hall hit a highpoint on July 8, with 115 people made up of 83 adults and 32 children. One-third of Dana's temporary residents were from Iowa.

Helen Mauney works at Crowell's Nursing Home in Blair and lives across the river in Mondamin, Iowa. Flooding meant that she couldn't get across the bridge to go home. Co-workers told her that she could find temporary housing help at city hall.

"They're wonderful people," she says of the ad hoc housing committee that administers Holling Hall, where she has lived for more than two months. "They made it as nice as possible. I appreciate everything they did."

The quickly-formed Washington County Cares Committee is now an efficient, tight-knit unit that delivered on its plan to have all the flood survivors relocated by the end of August and close Holling Hall.

Now the committee is transitioning into the Washington County Long-Term Recovery Committee, according to assistant city administrator Green. They are being advised by a Federal Emergency Management Agency Voluntary Agency Liaison. That help became possible on August 12, when the president declared a major disaster that designated Washington and eight other Nebraska counties eligible for Individual Assistance.

Not only has the committee of eight cared for flood survivors' daily needs for nearly two months, they also were able to assist with deposits or rental payments up to \$500 to help with relocation from Holling Hall. That money came from \$30,000 in donations the committee has received.

"At the core," says Aaron Barrow, a Blair police lieutenant and committee member, "there's a really strong city government and local business community that has a very good working relationship with the ministries. Government didn't solve all the problems, but a partnership between government, business and churches did solve problems."

"This city and this county are very generous," said Kristina Churchill, who is the Holling Hall Food Coordinator. "It didn't surprise me that we got help. What surprised me was how much help we got."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BIG SKY ALL STARS

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Yogi Berra once said, "I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house." A team of talented young athletes from Montana spent a lot of time out of the house this summer on an amazing and inspiring run all the way to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

The Big Sky All Stars from Billings were the first team ever from the State of Montana to qualify for the Little League World Series. I applaud the dedication of the teams manager Gene Carlson, coaches Mark Kieckbusch and Tom Zimmer, the players, and their families for their success and all the miles they've traveled, making Montana so proud along the way.

The team began their run in June and July by winning district and state championships back home in the Treasure State. The boys then traveled to California where they won the Northwest Regional Championship which qualified them for the Little League World Series.

Of the thousands of Little League teams that take the field across the